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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 5

QUESTION OF THE REALIZATION IN ALL COUNTRIES OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CONTAINED IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, AND STUDY OF SPECIAL PROBLEMS WHICH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FACE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THESE HUMAN RIGHTS

Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Cameroon*, China, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Guatemala*, Haiti*, Iran (Islamic Republic of)*, Iraq*, Ireland, Italy, Madagascar, Nicaragua*, Nigeria*, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea*, Portugal*, Rwanda*, Senegal*, South Africa, Swaziland*, Syrian Arab Republic*, Uganda, Viet Nam* and Yemen*: draft resolution

1997/... The right to food

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food,

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* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Recalling also the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition,

Taking into account the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in which the fundamental right of every person to be free from hunger is recognized,

Considering the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit held in Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996,

Recognizing that the problems of hunger and food insecurity have global dimensions and that they are likely to persist and even to increase dramatically in some regions, unless urgent, determined and concerted action is taken, given the anticipated increase in the world's population and the stress on natural resources,

Reaffirming that a peaceful, stable and enabling political, social and economic environment is the essential foundation which will enable States to give adequate priority to food security and poverty eradication,

Reiterating, as has been done by all the World Conferences and Summits held in the past decade, that food should not be used as an instrument of political and economic pressure,

Convinced that each State must adopt a strategy consistent with its resources and capacities to achieve its individual goals in implementing the recommendations contained in the Rome Declaration and Plan of Action and, at the same time, cooperate regionally and internationally in order to organize collective solutions to global issues of food security in a world of increasingly interlinked institutions, societies and economies, where coordinated efforts and shared responsibilities are essential,

1. Reaffirms that hunger constitutes an outrage and a violation of human dignity and, therefore, requires the adoption of urgent measures at the national, regional and international level for its elimination;

2. Also reaffirms that all men, women and children have the inalienable right to be free from hunger so as to be able fully to develop and maintain their physical and mental capacities;

3. Considers intolerable that over 800 million people throughout the world, and particularly in developing countries, do not have enough food to meet their basic nutritional needs, which infringes their fundamental human rights;

4. Stresses the need to make efforts to mobilize and optimize the allocation and utilization of technical and financial resources, from all sources, including external debt relief for developing countries, to reinforce national actions to implement sustainable food security policies;

5. Encourages the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to pay further attention in its activities to the issue of the right to food;

6. Endorses the request made in the World Food Summit Plan of Action to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in consultation with relevant treaty bodies, and in collaboration with relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system and appropriate intergovernmental mechanisms, as well as non-governmental organizations, to better define the rights related to food in article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and to propose ways to implement and realize these rights as a means of achieving the commitments and objectives of the World Food Summit, taking into account the possibility of formulating voluntary guidelines for food security for all;

7. Invites the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report on the implementation of this resolution at its fifty-fourth session.